Marine Life Protection Act Initiative



Improving Coordination among State and Federal Agencies with MPA responsibilities

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Improving Coordination among State and Federal Agencies

Draft Report

- Open for public comment September 6, 2006 through October 20, 2006
- Received comments from 10 entities (see briefing document F)
- Integrated information from four additional interviews



Improving Coordination among State and Federal Agencies

Contents

- 1. Description of state and federal agencies
- 2. Introduction to interagency coordination and collaboration
- 3. Pew Ocean Commission and U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy recommendations
- 4. Case studies
- 5. Recommendations



Improving Coordination among State and Federal Agencies

Recommendations

- Oversight coordinating bodies
- Design of MPAs in federal waters
- Education and public outreach
- Surveillance and enforcement
- Water quality programs
- Permitting
- Monitoring and adaptive management
- Emergency and contingency planning



Improving Coordination among State and Federal Agencies

Comment

MOU stipulates coordination but report alternates between discussing coordination and collaboration

Response

Recognized that MOU stipulates coordination but saw opportunities for collaboration; attempted to be more explicit the about when coordination or collaboration is recommended.



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Comment

Recommendation 1: Federal OPC working group will

- create another unneeded layer of bureaucracy
- consume large amounts of resources to manage
- should consist of staff who work more directly on MPAs.

Response

Modified recommendation 1 so that

- federal OPC working group would consist of the already existing OPC Steering Committee members and meet at regularly scheduled meetings.
- group would deal with all ocean issues not just MPAs
- reiterated importance of participation by those who can make policy or budgetary decisions



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Comment

Section on monitoring and adaptive management overstates agencies existing capacity for MPA monitoring. Purpose of including directors of research institutes in proposed regional MPA management advisory committees is unclear and committee membership is too large.

Response

Recognized MPA monitoring requires new expertise, tools, and approaches. Modified recommendations 15 and 16 of draft report to advocate that research directors have an unspecified advisory role to the monitoring institute.



Improving Coordination among State and Federal Agencies

Comment

Report should be updated periodically and decisionmakers should be briefed on the status of state and federal efforts to work together.

Response

Added recommendation 16 which calls for the report to be updated and for the federal OPC working group to be briefed annually.